

From: James Rubin
Bcc: "Emily.weber@mail.house.gov"; "janette.varwood@mail.house.gov"; "ryan.uvehara@mail.house.gov"; "james.hampson@mail.house.gov"; "will.strother@mail.house.gov"; "christian.kreuger@mail.house.gov"; "osbert.david@mail.house.gov"; "mark.erste@mail.house.gov"; "sarah.trister@mail.house.gov"; "molly.claire.cole@mail.house.gov"; "bradley.hart@mail.house.gov"; "troy.dougall@mail.house.gov"; "jessie.durrett@mail.house.gov"; "jason.steinbaum@mail.house.gov"; "david.kimelman@mail.house.gov"; "michael.mccabe@mail.house.gov"; "bubba.white@mail.house.gov"; "stacy.thompson@mail.house.gov"; "gabrielle.gould@mail.house.gov"; "sebastian.deluca@mail.house.gov"; "catherine.rowland@mail.house.gov"; "corey.jacobson@mail.house.gov"; "sarah.miller@mail.house.gov"; "thomas.rice@mail.house.gov"; "florence.akinyemi@mail.house.gov"; "ryan.morgan@mail.house.gov"; "Hillary.Lassiter@mail.house.gov"; "Chris.Herenandez@mail.house.gov"; "sophie.mirviss@mail.house.gov"; "Mike.D-Orazio@mail.house.gov"; "Joe.bartlett@mail.house.gov"; "erik.kinney@mail.house.gov"; "Michelle.Schein@mail.house.gov"; "Chelsea.Filner@mail.house.gov"; "piero.tozzi@mail.house.gov"; "erica.riordan@mail.house.gov"; "christina.tsasoulas@mail.house.gov"; "eddie.meyer@mail.house.gov"; "molly.eurke@mail.house.gov"; "tim.churchill@mail.house.gov"; "zach.fowler@mail.house.gov"; "oren.abaki@mail.house.gov"; "blair.rottert@mail.house.gov"; "Colin.Timmerman@mail.house.gov"; "sara.matar@mail.house.gov"; "amber.bland@barrasso.senate.gov"; "sophia.lani@booker.senate.gov"; "algene.sajery@cardin.senate.gov"; "thomas.mancinelli@coons.senate.gov"; "ricardo.pita@cruz.senate.gov"; "igor.khrestin@gardner.senate.gov"; "aaron.strickland@graham.senate.gov"; "kate.hunter@isakson.senate.gov"; "carol.foster@ronjohnson.senate.gov"; "guy.nentel@kaine.senate.gov"; "zachary.hossord@markey.senate.gov"; "sarah.arkin@menendez.senate.gov"; "matt.squeri@merkley.senate.gov"; "jessica.elledge@murphy.senate.gov"; "jim.webb@paul.senate.gov"; "wayne.jones@portman.senate.gov"; "kevin.henwood@romney.senate.gov"; "katie.perry@rubio.senate.gov"; "naz.durakoglu@shaheen.senate.gov"; "matthew.padilla@tomudall.senate.gov"; "brandt.anderson@young.senate.gov"
Subject: Latest Developments Regarding the Republic of Kosovo
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 12:01:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

I thought you might be interested in the latest developments regarding the Republic of Kosovo.

This material is distributed by Ballard Partners on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

Kosovo Works to Improve Bilateral Relations

- After a 21-year halt on flights between Kosovo and Serbia, German airline Lufthansa, the Kosovo Civil Aviation Authority, and a delegation from Serbia's Ministry of Economy have signed an agreement to resume commercial flights, which will help improve economic ties between the nations.
- Kosovo's President Thaçi, stated, "This event marks another step in our efforts to normalize relations between Kosovo and Serbia."
- President Thaçi applauded U.S. National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien and U.S. Special Envoy to the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue Richard Grenell for their assistance in fostering the deal.
- NATO Secretary-General Stoltenberg welcomed the deal, stating, "This is an important step which will make the circulation of people and goods easier and faster within the Western Balkans region."
- Kosovo's outgoing PM Haradinaj says that the Serbia-Kosovo agreements to restore airway and railway traffic between the two countries is a "positive signs".
- U.S. Special Envoy to the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue Richard Grenell is hopeful for Belgrade-Pristina dialogue, stating, "We made good progress this morning on issuing a Letter of Intent on railway cooperation... The discussions went well enough that we also discussed other issues."
- Kosovo is now recognized by over 110 countries.
- The government of Kosovo is contributing €250,000 to the Global Coalition against ISIS to help in the fight against terrorism.
- Kosovo's PM Haradinaj, states, "Kosovo is ready to fulfill its obligations through its military, police, intelligence and other aspects", when discussing the country's commitment to the Global Coalition against ISIS.

<https://balkaninsight.com/2020/01/10/outgoing-government-allocates-e250000-to-the-fight-against-isis/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2020/01/20/business/ap-eu-serbia-kosovo-flights.html>

<https://www.rt.com/news/478777-kosovo-serbia-direct-flights/>

<https://www.trtworld.com/business/kosovo-and-serbia-agree-to-resume-flights-after-two-decade-gap-33093>

<https://prishtinainsight.com/details-of-kosovo-serbia-flight-deal-revealed/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2020/01/25/business/ap-eu-serbia-kosovo-us.html>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/kosovo-pm-hails-as-positive-signs-recent-deals-with-serbia/2020/01/27/0e67baf6-4101-11ea-99c7-1df4241a2fe_story.html

<https://www.rferl.org/a/kosovo-serbia-make-good-progress-in-working-out-railway-deal-details/30400818.html>

New Government, New Kosovo

- Kosovo's two biggest political parties, Lëvizja Vetëvendosje (LVV) and the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK), have reached a deal on the formation of its new government, with Albin Kurti as the new PM.
- Under the new government the two parties will hold 77 of the 120 seats in Kosovo's parliament.
- Leader of the LDK Isa Mustafa, stated, "We believe it is a good deal that will enable changes that our country needs to make. We want this government to be successful and to meet people's expectations at last."
- Kosovo's parliament has endorsed Kurti's new cabinet with the First Deputy PM Avdullah Hoti and the Second Deputy PM Haki Abazi, followed by 15 ministries (six controlled by the LVV, six controlled by the LDK, and three controlled by minority parties): Minister of Foreign Affairs Glauk Konjufca, Minister of Internal Affairs Agim Veliu, Minister of Justice Albulena Haxhiu, Minister of European Integration Blerim Reka, Minister of Finance Besnik Bislimi, Minister of Economy Rozeta Hajdari, Minister of Health Arben Vitia, Minister of Agriculture Besian Mustafa, Minister of Defense Anton Quni, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation Lumir Abdixhiku, Minister of Culture, Youth, and Sports Vlora Dumoshi, Minister of Education Hykmete Bajrami, Minister for Local Governments Emilija Redzeqi, Minister for Communities and Returns Dalivor Jevtic, and Minister for Regional Development Ivan Milojevic.
- Kosovo's outgoing government has adopted the Magnitsky Act, which will penalize human rights abusers. Outgoing FM Pacolli, stated, "I'm proud today that the government of Kosovo has established the Kosovo Magnitsky Act, sanctioning foreign government officials implicated in human rights abuses anywhere in the world."
- Kurti has announced his intent to restart talks with Serbia that will be centered on the rights of citizens and the needs of communities, rather than on territory. He stated, "With Serbia we will have a full reciprocity in trade, politics, and economy. I am ready to lead the talks with Serbia."
- Kurti has also announced that he will be taking on corruption and nepotism, which has slowed foreign businesses from investing in the country.
- The new government has announced that the budget will be completely reshaped, removing unnecessary spending. The budget will focus on projects that reduce unemployment, improving education, health, and the military.

<https://exit.al/en/2020/01/20/vetevendosje-nominates-albin-kurti-for-kosovos-prime-minister/>

<https://balkaninsight.com/2020/01/29/kosovo-to-adapt-magnitsky-act/>

<https://news.yahoo.com/kosovo-parties-sign-long-awaited-093942570.html>

<https://emerging-europe.com/news/kosovo-finally-has-a-government-it-needs-to-hit-the-ground-running/>

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-kosovo-government/kosovo-approves-new-government-pm-vows-to-be-tough-negotiator-with-serbia-idUSKBN1ZX2HO>

<https://www.intellinews.com/kosovo-s-parliament-endorses-new-government-led-by-albin-kurti-175854/>

Kosovo Looks Toward Renewable Energy

- A new 105MW wind farm is being built in Kosovo and will contribute 10% of the country's installed capacity, avoiding 247,000 tons of carbon dioxide a year. The wind turbine farm is expected to contribute €25 million in annual revenue for the first 12 years, and €15 million each year after.
- The new 105MW wind farm will bring the country's renewable energy capacity to more than 200MW, with a goal of generating 400MW of capacity from renewables by 2026, including wind, hydro, and solar power.
- The EBRD has invested close to €413 million in Kosovo, investing in 67 projects. By 2020, the bank plans to make 40% of its annual investments in Kosovo in its green economy.

<https://renews.biz/56987/funding-boost-for-105mw-kosovo-wind/>

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-kosovo-energy-wind/ebd-to-lend-58-million-euros-to-build-kosovos-biggest-wind-farm-idUSKBN1YK1EC>

Economy Sees Progress

- According to the Central Bank, the net profit of Kosovo's banking sector rose to €82.4 million from January-November 2019, compared to only €75.1 million in the same period of 2018.
- In October of 2019, FDI into Kosovo totaled €35.0 million, compared to only €29.2 million in October 2018, with the greatest FDI coming from Germany.
- Foreign remittances to Kosovo increased 4.5% in October 2019 compared to the same month in 2018, rising to €78.2 million.

<https://seenews.com/news/net-fdi-inflow-to-kosovo-rises-vy-in-oct-682465>

<https://seenews.com/news/kosovo-banks-jan-nov-net-profit-rises-683964>

-

Sincerely,

James P. Rubin

BALLARD | PARTNERS

Chair, International Policy and Strategy

601 Thirteenth St, NW, Ste 450N

Washington, DC 20005

P: 202.800.5620

F: 202.800.5623

E: rubin@ballardpartners.com